## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ANGOLA

A. IZVESTIYA ON SOVIET POLICY

A JANUARY 29 "OBSERVER" ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA, STRONGLY ATTACKING US POLICY IN ANGOLA, ASSERTS THAT:

--THE USSR HAS NEVER OPPOSED THE QUEST FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND WOULD NOW WELCOME THE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL "PATRIOTIC FORCES."

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF SOVIET ANGOLA POLICY SINCE THE JANUARY 3 PRAVDA ARTICLE. WE DETECT LITTLE, IF ANY, SOFTENING OF MOSCOW'S POSITION CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, AND CONSIDER IT AS AN EFFORT TO PUT A MODERATELY

CONCILIATORY FACADE ON AN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED POLICY.

B. BENIN: LET THE MUNCHKINS MARCH

AT THE CLIMAX OF A MASS RALLY TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA AND TO DENOUNCE THE US, BENIN'S PRESIDENT KEREKOU ANNOUNCED

PLANS TO DISPATCH AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE OF VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT WITH THE MPLA IN ANGOLA. EMBASSY COTONOU REPORTS THAT THE FORCE:

- --WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS;
- --WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE LEADERSHIP AND PROTECTION FROM THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS:
- --MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE WAR WILL BE OVER BEFORE THE BENINESE BECOME ENGAGED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THE SOVIETS HAVE PULLED THE WIRES FOR THIS MOVE, WHICH WILL BE A PROPAGANDA COUP AND MIGHT STIMULATE SIMILAR GESTURES BY OTHER PRO-MPLA AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 1360 AND COTONOU 155, 1/30.)

2. CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: THE VIENNESE WALTZ

COMMENTING ON THE GREEK CYPRIOT POSITION ON THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS IN VIENNA, EMBASSY NICOSIA NOTES:

- --THE POSITION CASTS SERIOUS DOUBT ON THE POSSIBIL-ITY OF THE FEBRUARY 17 MEETING TAKING PLACE.
- --THE TURKISH EFFORT TO INTERPRET THE BRUSSELS AGREE-MENT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE HAS MOVED THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AWAY FROM THEIR INITIAL UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF VIENNA.

THE EMBASSY FEELS IT IS ANKARA MORE THAN DENKTASH WHICH HAS THROWN UP THE OBSTACLES TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THAT THIS PLAYS INTO MAKARIOS' HANDS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 285 (EXDIS), 1/30.)

3. LEBANON: AMBITIONS SHOULD BE BUILT ON STERNER STUFF

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRY REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM, EMBASSY BEIRUT OBSERVES THAT THE JOCKEYING FOR POWER AND OFFICE MAY BE PROCEEDING WITH TOO LITTLE REGARD FOR THE FRAGILITY

## OF THE PRESENT CEASEFIRE.

--THE DELAY IN ANNOUNCING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MOSLEM QUESTIONING OF A CHRISTIAN PRESIDENCY, AND THE SLIPPAGE OF THE FRANGIE VISIT TO SYRIA RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ACCORD MAY UNRAVEL BEFORE IT IS WOVEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 994, 1/30.)

4. PORTUGAL: PROGRESS ON THE PACT BUT NOT BETWEEN THE PARTIES

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AFM-PARTIES PACT GIVEN THE FLEXIBILITY DEMONSTRATED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NEGOTIATORS AND THE INTEREST OF THE PARTIES IN MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS ARE TROUBLED HOWEVER. THE PROSPECT OF POST-ELECTORAL COOPERATION MAY EXERT SOME MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE PS AND THE PPD, BUT THE CAMPAIGN, ALREADY UNOFFICIALLY UNDERWAY, WILL CONTINUE TO STRAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 634, 1/30.) KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 31 JAN 1976 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE024883

Document Number: 1976STATE024883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: O: JETT Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760037-0653

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976011/aaaaaaem.tel Line Count: 137 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN SSO Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: saccheem

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 MAR 2004

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by saccheem>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PORS, PBOR, PGOV, PINT, UR, AO, US, DA, CY, TU, GR, LE, PO To: JCS MULTIPLE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006